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Monday, December 19, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

DOING IT DOUG'S WAY

The Eagles, rightly or wrongly, took a big risk Sunday. 24

Meet the villain of 'Rogue One.' 18-19

The sure way to shine in your college interview. 22

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DREAM ON

City's vision to 'Rebuild' set to make strides in 2017. 2

CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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1. What's Philly Jesus' secret to staying warm during bitter winter weather?

2. What is the movie that first made Ben Mendlesohn of "Rogue One" an actor to watch?

3. For how many more minutes did the Eagles possess the ball than the Ravens Sunday?

3 things you need to know

1 CLINTON AIDE: TRUMP TEAM COLLUSION WITH RUSSIA AN 'OPEN QUESTION'

A top aide to Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign said on Sunday it was an "open question" whether President-elect Donald Trump's advisers colluded with Russia to hack into Democratic Party emails to try to sway the Nov. 8 election. Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta said there was evidence that Trump associates had contact with a Russian intelligence official and the website Wikileaks before U.S. intelligence agencies accused Russia of being behind computer attacks of Democratic emails, including Podesta's. "It's very much unknown whether there was collusion. I think Russian diplomats have said post-election that they were talking to the Trump campaign," Podesta told NBC's "Meet the Press" program. "Not what Mr. Trump knew, but what did 'Trump Inc' know and when did they know it? Were they in touch with the Russians? I think those are still open questions," he added. Asked if it was a free and fair election, Podesta replied: "I think it was distorted by the Russian intervention, let's put it that way." REUTERS

2 BUSES EN ROUTE TO EVACUATE SYRIAN VILLAGES BURNED

Several buses en route to evacuate ill and injured people from the besieged Syrian villages of al-Foua and Kefraya were attacked and burned on Sunday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Syrian state television said. Some buses, as well as Red Crescent vehicles, reached the entrance to the villages in Idlib province, which are besieged by insurgents. The coalition of forces fighting for the government of President Bashar al-Assad are demanding people to be allowed to leave the two villages in exchange for allowing evacuations of rebels and civilians from east Aleppo. REUTERS

3 SENATORS CALL FOR PANEL TO INVESTIGATE RUSSIAN HACKING

Four Senators on Sunday called for the creation of a bipartisan investigative panel that would investigate U.S. government allegations that Russia and other foreign countries tried to hack the U.S. elections. U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer of New York, the incoming Senate Minority Leader, said that he and Democrat Jack Reed of Rhode Island, Republicans John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina would be issuing a joint letter about creating the committee. REUTERS

Wendi Zendendi, left, and a friend throw bread chunks to Canada Geese in FDR Park in Philadelphia. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Philadelphia reaches for upgrades in 2017

The city is gearing up for major construction projects in 2017, with Mayor Kenney's Rebuild program inching closer to reality.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Philadelphians may have a lot to look forward to in 2017 — the year the city begins to realize the mayor's bold dreams for neighborhood improvements, particularly in long-neglected communities.

Philly Rebuild (or Rebuilding Community Infrastructure) is focused on upgrading Philadelphia's parks, playgrounds, rec centers and libraries. The program is scheduled to announce the first round of projects, selected from out of 405 potential sites, in the spring. They're aiming to have shovels in the ground later in the year.

"This is really about spreading equity and reaching neighborhoods that haven't received as much investment over the years," said David Gould, a spokesman for Philly Rebuild. "Historically underserved neighborhoods, with high poverty, high unemployment, high health risk, and high crime areas."

Mayor Jim Kenney's stated goals with Rebuild are "economic growth and equity," so the city is collecting data now to determine where investments can make the most difference in those areas.

That doesn't mean Rebuild will exclusively work in poorer neighborhoods. But while selecting the first round of sites in collaboration with the City Council, Gould said the city will take a data-driven approach to selecting work sites.

"What the data help us do is come up with an objective and transparent process so we can really articulate why a site is getting investment," Gould said. "We want the public to be confident that it's an objective and informed process."

Rebuild is financed with a combination of a $100 million grant from the William Penn Foundation, new bond sales and revenue from the new sweetened beverage tax and assorted other services.

The Mayor's Office isn't the only place where plans for Philly's future growth are being hatched.

The Urban Land Institute's 2017 report on new trends in real estate lists Philadelphia as a "market to watch," and ranks the city eighth nationally in terms of homebuilding prospects.

"Pennsylvania's largest city appears to be riding a wave of optimism going into 2017," ULI stated in the report.

Another city agency with big projects for 2017 is the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority (PRA).

In the first quarter of 2017, the RDA is expecting to select a developer to rehab 36 homes in the area of West Philly where the 1985 MOVE bombing caused the destruction of dozens of homes.

"The 6200 blocks of Osage and Pine have a well-known and tragic history," PRA executive director Gregory Heller said via email. "It was a priority of this administration to address this situation in our first year in office to seek a path for restoring the blocks, bringing new residents to these homes, and help this community heal."

PRA is also planning in 2017 to launch a study of how to develop vacant land in Eastwick, and to restore the Germantown YWCA.

By the Numbers

$500 million
-budget for Philly Rebuild

405
-potential sites for upgrade

WEEK-AHEAD WEATHER BY JOHN BOLARIS

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS
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BRIEF

It's no miracle: Philly Jesus stays warm in bitter winter weather

When the temperatures drop, Philly Jesus gives thanks for the blessings of long underwear and hot chocolate.

"It's so cold. Even with gloves, my fingers were frozen," said "Philly Jesus," as Center City's Mike Grant is known.

Philly Jesus is seen daily around the Christmas Village in Center City, donning the familiar garb of the Messiah.

Philly Jesus. SAM NEWHOUSE/METRO

"I'm there to put the Christ back in Christmas," he said. "They've got St. Nicholas. So I had to remind people of the true reason for the season, and just be a walking reminder of the spirit of Christmas."

But how does he stay warm while doing his work with just a staff and robe?

Apparently, it's all about the layers.

Philly Jesus wears long johns, pants, a shirt and an undershirt, two pairs of socks, boots, three robes and gloves. He is also keeping his beard bushier than ever. And when he has time to take a break, he warms up with hot chocolate at Starbucks.

SAM NEWHOUSE

Endometriosis Pain Clinical Research Study

The EDELWEISS clinical research study is evaluating the safety and effectiveness of an investigational drug for moderate to severe endometriosis pain.

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- Are not pregnant or breastfeeding or planning to get pregnant within the next 10 months

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EDELWEISS

Armed suspects seen in a surveillance photo in the TD Bank on the 5500 block of Ridge Avenue in Roxborough. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS

'Armed and dangerous' bank robbers sought in Philadelphia

The FBI and Philly police are searching for suspects who hit two banks this weekend.

ALEXIS SACHDEV
@lexsachdev
alexis.sachdev@metro.us

The FBI and the Philadelphia Police Department are asking for the public's help in identifying two suspects responsible for armed robberies of banks this weekend.

The FBI has released surveillance photos of the suspects, who hit two banks in the Northwest Philly area Saturday morning within 90 minutes of each other.

Just before 10:30 a.m., a man armed with a handgun entered the Citizens Bank at 8616 Germantown Ave. in Chestnut Hill, and demanded money from the teller. He ran south on Germantown Avenue after receiving an undisclosed amount of cash.

Around noon, the same man with another suspect went to the TD Bank on the 5500 block of Ridge Avenue in Roxborough. The armed duo showed the teller a black handgun, demanding money. They ran from the bank after receiving an undisclosed amount.

Both suspects were wearing black ski masks covering a portion of their faces at the time of the robberies. One suspect was wearing a light gray sweatshirt, jeans and tan Timberland boots. The second wore a dark hooded sweatshirt, black gloves and dark shoes.

Anyone with information is asked to call the FBI at 215-418-4000 or the PPD at 215-686-8477.

BRIEF

Northeast airports rank lowest in passenger satisfaction

Four major airports in the Northeast are among the worst in the nation in terms of customer satisfaction, according to an annual market study.

New York's La Guardia Airport, Newark Liberty International, Boston's Logan Airport and the Philadelphia International Airport ranked among the five worst airports in the country, according to the J.D. Power 2016 North American Airport Satisfaction Study.

La Guardia Airport was rated the worst.

Construction woes at the airport have contributed to a 6-point drop in overall satisfaction in 2016.

Fairing slightly better than La Guardia was Newark Liberty International, rated the second-worst airport in the nation for customer satisfaction.

Boston's Logan Airport was the fifth-worst airport, ranked slightly better than Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Philadelphia International was rated slightly worse than the Boston and Chicago airports. ERIN TIERNAN

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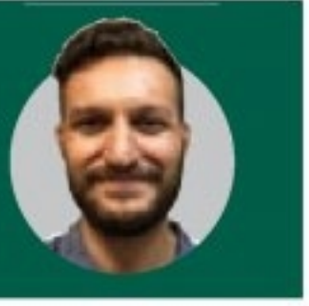
GETTY IMAGES

'FAKE NEWS' POISONS BIKE LANE DEBATE

RANDY LOBASSO



There were no explosives at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital last Tuesday night, but at least one person there for the monthly Washington West Civic Association meeting was on watch.

A resident of the Washington West neighborhood in Center City, he and dozens of others were on hand to hear from city representatives about physically-protected bike lanes. Specifically, on the already-painted 10-foot buffered lanes on Spruce and Pine streets through Center City. Those lanes are regularly obstructed by parked cars and trucks, leaving cyclists dangerously exposed to motor vehicle traffic.

But for that one resident, it wasn't the cyclists who were at risk when traveling on Spruce and Pine — it was everyone else. With Philadelphia's homicide rates slightly up in 2016, the man, who was not identified, worried that bicyclists could be carrying explosives, and perhaps set them off at any time.

"That takes the prize for the most bizarre argument against bicyclists that I have ever heard," notes William West, a bicycle advocate from Center City, and one of dozens who attended the community meeting.

In 2015, the Philadelphia Parking Authority issued 358 parking tickets per month for cars parked in bike lanes — the plurality of which were on Spruce and Pine streets. As of October 2016, the PPA had actually issued 381 per month this year for the same offense, and these same streets were, again, the most offensive.

So-called "Not in my backyard" arguments against people who travel by bicycle are not new. Bike lanes are regularly, incorrectly, and often pre-emptively blamed for everything from choking motor vehicle traffic to hurting businesses. Actually, bike lanes have been proven to both reduce traffic, and help commerce. Go figure.

"With a network of car-free, protected bike lanes we could easily quintuple the number of people bicycling in Philadelphia," adds West. "And that would be very good for the city in many ways, from reducing congestion to cleaning the air to improving the health of many of the people who live here."

> *"That takes the prize for the most bizarre argument against bicyclists that I have ever heard."*
>
> William West

As Philadelphia begins debating the installation of a 30-mile protected bike lane network over the next five years (one of Mayor Jim Kenney's campaign promises), it's important to know which arguments hold water, and which are created out of thin air. In the year "fake news" penetrated social media and a national presidential campaign, it seems Philly's bike lane debate is just as vulnerable.

Randy LoBasso is communications manager at the Bicycle Coalition for Greater Philadelphia.

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BRIEF

Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor dies at age 99: media reports
Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor, who parlayed beauty, diamond-studded glamor and nine marriages into a long celebrity career, died on Sunday, Variety and other media outlets reported, She was 99.

Ed Lozzi, a publicist for Gabor, told Variety that the Hungarian-born actress, who would have turned 100 in February, passed away at her home on Sunday afternoon. No additional information about her death was available, and Lozzi could not be reached immediately.

Gabor, by most accounts, had a personality that generally outshone her acting skills. Her bubbly demeanor and looks helped land her a string of wealthy husbands. She had a penchant for calling everyone "dah-ling" in her thick Hungarian accent. Along with her two sisters, Eva and Magda, she became a fixture on Hollywood's social circuit in her prime.

She was once branded "the most expensive courtesan since Madame de Pompadour," but Gabor insisted that only her marriage to husband No. 2, hotel mogul Conrad Hilton, was financially motivated.

In fact, marriage could have been the Gabor family business and Zsa Zsa, the company's CEO. Her nine marriages topped the five by Eva, who starred in the 1960s sitcom "Green Acres," and the six of Magda, whose Hollywood career was mostly based on being the third Gabor sister. REUTERS

Media reports: Dozens of Cuban migrants land in Florida Keys

All 51 of the migrants who landed on Sunday were turned over to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Dozens of Cuban migrants landed in three separate boats in the Florida Keys on Sunday, days after more than 40 others arrived in the same area.

Under an agreement with Cuba's communist government, the United States can force Cubans who are intercepted between the two nations to return home or go to a third country, though those who land on U.S. soil are usually allowed to stay.

The U.S. Coast Guard earlier this year said it was concerned about a possible surge in Cuban migrants eager to flee.

The concerns arose over peoples' fears that the warming relations between the Cuban government and Washington could jeopardize the special status enjoyed by Cubans for decades in gaining refugee status in the United States.

In addition, anti-immigration sentiment stirred up by Republican Donald Trump during the U.S. presidential campaign led to concerns he could clamp down on Cubans entering the United States legally if won the Nov. 8 election. Now that Trump is president-elect, it remains to be seen how he will handle immigration.

Five days ago, 41 migrants from Cojímar, east of Havana, landed in the Florida Keys in a single boat, the Miami Herald reported. REUTERS

Metro Magic delivers holiday smiles

Children receive presents donated by Metro Magic, a tradition started by long time Metro editor Tony Metcalf, at the Philadelphia non-profit IDAAY's annual holiday party on Dec. 17, 2016.

Metro thanks everyone who donated gifts and the volunteers who donated their time. CHARLES MOSTOLLER/METRO

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UN council to vote today on monitoring Aleppo evacuation

Syrian children wait to be evacuated from the east part of Aleppo on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

The U.N. Security Council agreed on a draft resolution aimed at ensuring that U.N. officials can monitor evacuations from the Syrian city of Aleppo and will vote on the text on Monday, diplomats said after several hours of negotiations.

The council had been scheduled to vote on Sunday on a French draft, but Russia, an ally of the Syrian government in the civil war, circulated a rival text. Russia raised concerns about sending in U.N. officials unprepared to monitor the protection of civilians who remain in the last rebel-held area of eastern Aleppo, which has been under siege for years.

The evacuation ground to a halt on Friday after demands from pro-government forces that people also be moved out of two Shi'ite villages besieged by insurgents.

French U.N. Ambassador Francois Delattre said the compromise text was based on the French draft and explained that the vote had been delayed until Monday because "given the importance of the text, some of us have preferred to report back to capitals."

The new draft asks U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon "to take urgent steps to make arrangements, including security arrangements in consultation with interested parties, to allow the observation by the United Nations and other relevant institutions of the well-being of civilians ... inside the eastern districts of the city of Aleppo."

The U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, told reporters that the council expected to "vote unanimously for this text" at 9 a.m. (1400 GMT).

Russian U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin told reporters: "I think we have a good text."

Churkin had earlier on Sunday said that Russia would veto the original French draft, which he described as "a disaster."

Russia, which has provided military backing to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's troops, has vetoed six Security Council resolutions on Syria since the war started in 2011. China joined Moscow in vetoing five resolutions.

The draft resolution to be voted on asks the United Nations and other institutions "to carry out adequate, neutral monitoring and direct observation on evacuations from the eastern districts of Aleppo and other districts of the city."

It also "demands all parties to provide these monitors with safe, immediate and unimpeded access."

Ban would report back on implementation of the resolution within five days of adoption, the draft said. REUTERS

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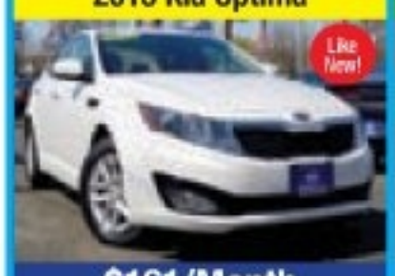

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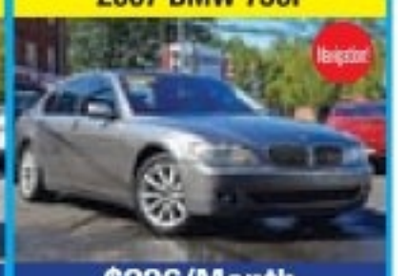

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Trump aide plays down prospect of upending 'one China' policy

President-elect Donald Trump's incoming White House chief of staff on Sunday played down the prospect that Trump would revisit Washington's decades-old "one China" policy, even though he suggested as much a week ago.

Since 1979, the United States has acknowledged Taiwan as part of "one China" but Trump prompted a diplomatic protest from Beijing after he accepted a congratulatory phone call on his election win from President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan on Dec. 2.

"We are not suggesting that we're revisiting 'one China' policy right now," Trump aide Reince Priebus said on "Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace."

"He is not president

Reince Priebus GETTY IMAGES

right now and he's respectful to the current president," Priebus said.

Last Sunday, Trump himself said in an interview on "Fox News Sunday": "I fully understand the 'one China' policy, but I don't know why we have to be bound by a 'one China' policy unless we make a deal with China having to do with other things, including trade."

Political analysts said that Republican Trump's call with the president of Taiwan and the comments on the "one China" policy could antagonize Beijing.

Trump also inserted himself on Saturday into another sensitive dispute between China and the United States after China on Thursday seized an underwater drone owned by the U.S. military in the South China Sea. Trump called the seizure an "unpresidented act" [sic] in a tweet.

U.S. officials described the seizure as the first of its kind in recent memory. It was taken about 50 nautical miles northwest of Subic Bay off the Philippines just as the USNS Bowditch was about to retrieve it, officials said.

Although China vowed to return the drone to the United States, Trump later tweeted that the U.S. should let China keep it.

REUTERS

BAH, HUMTRUMP!

After a long and brutal political year, it is so nice to have the season of peace and giving upon us. As if. Some of these D.C. pols make Scrooge look like Howie Mandel any day of the year. So here are my three things to watch this week.

1. COAL FOR THE KREMLIN

President Obama must be pretty busy packing boxes by now but he's vowed to take a break to beat up on the Russians a bit. The administration is furious over what it says is clear evidence Moscow hacked into the U.S. election among other things. So what sort of retaliation does the White House have in mind? It could be economic sanctions, a counter cyberattack, or perhaps a paper cut and lemon juice. In any event, watch for more developments and perhaps more pushback from Vladimir Putin ("Who me?") as a result.

TOM FOREMAN

Opinion

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the book "My Year of Running Dangerously." @tomforemancnn

2. LAST GASP FOR CLINTON CAMPAIGN

Before Donald Trump can take the oath in January, a critically important detail must be taken care of this week: The 538 members of the Electoral College have to meet on Monday to officially make him the winner of the election. Unless they don't.

With Hillary Clinton's lead in the popular vote up around 3 million, Democrats have raised a hue and cry for "faithless electors" to rise up, deny the results in their own states, and hand her the White House. The odds of it happening are almost nonexistent. Still, watch to see how many — if any — of them heed the call if only for form's sake. There could still be a little drama left in this election …

3. HOLIDAY MAKEOVER

If you haven't noticed yet, Team Trump has been significantly retrenching on many campaign promises. Prosecuting Clinton? Building a wall? Meh. It's no surprise. Pretty much every politician does that. Watch the president-elect move even more quickly in that direction over the holiday season while voters are feeling particularly warm, mellow and drunk on eggnog. But also watch for some sharp complaints if he takes it too far.

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Only the hardiest remain at Dakota pipeline protest camp

Protesters who remain at the camp are still receiving donations of money and supplies from people across the U.S.

Two weeks after a victory in their fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline, most protesters have cleared out of the main protest camp in North Dakota — but about 1,000 are still there, and plan to remain through the winter.

These folks say they are dug in at the Oceti Sakowin Camp in Cannon Ball, North Dakota, despite the cold, for a few reasons. Most are Native Americans, and want to support the tribal sovereignty effort forcefully argued by the Standing Rock Sioux, whose land is adjacent to the pipeline being built.

Others say they worry that Energy Transfer Partners LP, the company building the $3.8 billion project, will resume construction without people on the ground, even though the tribes and the company are currently locked in a court battle.

Future decisions on the 1,172-mile pipeline are likely to come through discussions with the incoming administration of Donald Trump, or in courtrooms.

"I've seen some of my friends leave but I will be here until the end and will stand up to Trump if he decides to approve the permit," said Victor Herrald, of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, who has been at the camp since August.

At one point the camp had about 10,000 people, including about 4,000 veterans who showed up in early December — just before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers denied a key easement needed to allow the Dakota Access Pipeline to run under Lake Oahe, a reservoir formed by a dam on the Missouri River.

Activists at Oceti Sakowin near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation brace for sub-zero temperatures. GETTY IMAGES

After the Corps decision, Standing Rock chairman Dave Archambault asked protesters to go home. The camp's population now runs from 700 to 1,000, depending on the day, and many come from the nearby Standing Rock reservation where they live.

Those left say they are there to "show our strengths," as Bucky Harjo, 63, of the Paiute tribe, from Reno, Nevada, put it, while the tribe deals with the legal battle.

Logistics are key for those still at the camp, located on federal land. Theron Begay, a Navajo journeyman, certified construction worker and heavy machine operator, has been put in charge of winterizing the camp. He is training volunteers to build structures that withstand sub-zero temperatures and bitter winds, as well as compost toilets.

Some people at the camp have gotten pneumonia, and they and others went to an emergency shelter that was built three miles away to escape the cold.

Because the Oceti Sakowin camp is located on a flood plain, waste from the camp poses risks to the nearby Cannonball River. Tribal leaders have said the camp may need to move if it wants to remain active. Begay said the structures can be "disassembled like a puzzle in two hours" and re-established on drier ground. REUTERS

BRIEF

Texas city lifts tap water ban after chemical spill fear

Tap water in Corpus Christi is safe to drink, the mayor of the Texas city said on Sunday, lifting a four-day ban after a chemical spill that forced most of the city's residents to rely on bottled water while tests were underway.

Residents of the Gulf of Mexico city were told on Wednesday to stop using tap water for drinking, food preparation and bathing. About 85 percent of Corpus Christi, with a population of about 320,000, was under the restrictions.

An investigation of the leak of up to 24 gallons of an asphalt emulsifier determined the water was safe to use again, Mayor Dan McQueen said.

It was not clear if the water supply was ever contaminated by the spill.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the city investigated.

"The entire city of Corpus Christi water system is in full use," McQueen said.

Federal and state environmental agencies tested 30 water samples taken from the city on Saturday and found no traces of harmful chemicals. REUTERS

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Chris Brown throws another tantrum

Chris Brown is still annoying. You would think that someone who spends so much time in the press for his never-ending string of legal battles wouldn't be so obnoxiously pompous on social media, or maybe the two characteristics go hand-in-hand. Either way, after releasing a surprise single called "Party," Breezy felt slighted by fans on Saturday when the track didn't get the iTunes downloads he felt it deserved. The 27-year-old took to Instagram to let them know.

Perez Hilton has screenshots of the now-deleted Instagram post where Brown blasts his fans for preferring "non-lyrical rappers" over himself. He says he's the only artist left with "vision and dedication to his fans," which seems contradictory to the riot act he was reading them. He doesn't think there are any artists that work as hard as he does.

Meanwhile, we don't think there are any artists quite as reckless and arrogant as him.

Rob Kardashian's and Blac Chyna's social media blow up

Just in time for Sunday night's premiere of the "Rob & Chyna" baby special, drama between Rob Kardashian and Blac Chyna exploded on social media on Saturday.

Blac Chyna's Instagram account was taken over by someone who released over a dozen of now-deleted screenshots of texts and direct messages that paint Chyna as a cheater only looking to use Rob for fame and access to the profitable Kardashian name.

In some texts she calls her fiance "lazy" and "insecure" and is giving him a year to "get it together." The hacker also revealed that Blac Chyna had moved herself, Baby Dream and King out of the house she was sharing with Rob, reports E!. Here's a breakdown of this mess.

Rob's side

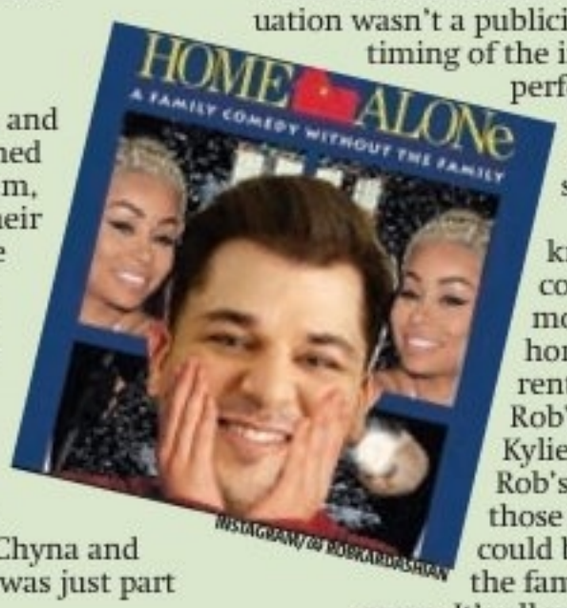
On his own Instagram and Snapchat, Rob confirmed that Blac Chyna left him, taking Baby Dream, their furniture and even the food out of the fridge — he was particularly upset about his Eggos. In one post he says he's "hurt" and that he just wants to be with his baby on Christmas. He says he "loved every inch" of Chyna and feels betrayed that he was just part of a plan.

Chyna's side

The new mom created a backup Instagram account to say that Rob was verbally abusive and unmotivated in their relationship, which, if we're being honest, sounds about right. In the deleted post she said that she's done nothing but help Rob, and that he's mentally ill and self-medicates. She claimed that Rob knows where she and Baby Dream are, but hasn't come to see his month-old daughter. She says he "asked" for all of this.

The case for the publicity stunt

While Rob insists that this whole situation wasn't a publicity stunt, the timing of the incident was perfectly suited to drum up ratings for their special.



We also know that the couple recently moved into a home they're renting from Rob's little sister, Kylie Jenner. So Rob's footage of those empty rooms could be the result of the family's planned move. It's all very suspicious. As bad as things look, there is no doubt in our minds that they will be back together next week. We're over this.

2 Chainz sells ugly Christmas sweater for $90K

2 Chainz isn't all about his expensive clothes and jewels. Actually he is, but this time he used them for a good cause. The "Watch Out" rapper teamed up with Avianne & Co. jewelers to create an ugly Christmas sweater with a steep price tag. Sold at $90,000, the shirt that 2 Chainz is calling the "most expensivest ugly Christmas sweater" includes 50 carats in diamonds and 250 grams of gold. "Entertainment Tonight" says that proceeds from the sale went to the 39-year-old's T.R.U. Foundation.

It's a nonprofit that supports veterans, children with disabilities and local arts education in Atlanta.

The mystery buyer shouldn't expect to win "Ugliest Sweater" at their holiday party, though. It's actually a pretty cool sweatshirt with a pop culture reference. The golden Santa is hitting "the folks," a popular dance craze we'll soon forget. The buyer is going to hate themselves this time next year.

CeeLo's Samsung didn't actually explode

Early on Saturday, what appeared to be surveillance footage from inside a music studio showed singer and "The Voice" coach, CeeLo Green, becoming the latest victim of the Samsung Galaxy Note 7. In the video, the 42-year-old appears to be talking on the phone when the device begins to emit smoke and ultimately explode on the side of his face. CeeLo can be seen falling out of the chair and laying on the ground.

Other artists and fans alike took to Twitter to send prayers and well-wishes to the presumably injured CeeLo.

Samsung also began trending on the social media platform.

But it may have all been a performance. In a Facebook Live video, CeeLo clarified that the footage was part of a "smaller video" that was intended to "set up a character" for a project called Gnarly Davidson. He apologized to fans that may have been "emotionally disturbed" by the clip and guaranteed that he was OK.

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Ben Mendelsohn can't believe he's in 'Star Wars'

The acclaimed "Rogue One" actor is just glad people are finally noticing him.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Ben Mendelsohn's happy to be in a "Star Wars" movie, and so are we. For fans of the Australian character actor's work, Mendelsohn's turn in the spin-off/prequel "Rogue One" — playing Imperial baddie Orson Krennic, tasked with getting the first Death Star up and running — means more people will know who he is. Though an actor since his teens, it wasn't until the crime epic "Animal Kingdom" in 2010 that he became what he is today: a thrilling and frequently employed go-to character actor, stealing scenes in "Killing Them Softly," "The Place Beyond the Pines" and "Mississippi Grind."

I have to say, talking about a new "Star Wars" reminds me of how old I am. Do you get the same way when you think about the passage of time?

Oh, absolutely. But what I think is really weird is when you get older, it's almost as though you actually get to the core of who you were a lot more than you did all those many years in between. And I like that. I like the way I feel about who I am now, even with my many misgivings and many shortcomings. I feel that I am much friendlier, and more accepting, as it were, of that human that I was. Maybe that's because now I'm in a "Star Wars" movie. [Laughs] I have kind of wished, through this process, to travel back in time and tell this young fella, "Relax. One day you'll be in 'Star

Ben Mendelsohn plays the chief villain in "Rogue One": Imperial director Orson Krennic, tasked with making sure the first Death Star is fully operational. JONATHAN OLLEY

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Wars.' Don't sweat it, baby." But, alas.

When you were younger were you the angry, brooding type?

I was. Oh, yeah. There was a real heaviness. There's a real heaviness that comes upon you in your adolescent years.

GETTY IMAGES

There's a real search for deep, visceral authenticity and a very narrow, austere reading of what's right and wrong and good and bad and all that s—, which I think one is released from through the passage of the years.

I'm sure it helped that over the last seven or so years, you've been getting lots of meaty roles: "Mississippi Grind," "Killing Them Softly"...

Look, honestly, I just feel incredibly lucky to be playing characters that people notice. I've been doing this since I was 14. I was really quite successful when I was around 17 to, say, 21, 22. I had come to terms that that was when I had a great career. I still had a career after that. But it wasn't a great career, like it was then. I thought that was it. Sooner or later, I'd have to get some proper job, etc., etc., or sit around dreaming forever. So I've been greatly relieved and delighted by what's happened.

Breaking bad

It seems in "Rogue One" you get a chance to play a real character, not just a stuffy, evil villain.
We wanted to get the sense of someone that actually has to struggle to operate very much within that Imperial world. He's a person with a lot of pressure on him, though he's able to put that pressure onto other people as well. His villainy, as it were, is a lot more transferring than it is "I am a pure pool of evil."

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Snooki dishes on what to expect from 'The New Celebrity Apprentice'

The "Jersey Shore" star even hints as to what Arnold's tagline might be.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

The new year kicks off with "The New Celebrity Apprentice"on NBC. With "The Donald" in the Oval Office (and fired from in 2015, anyway), a new boss is in the boardroom: action movie hero and former California governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

On the show, 16 celebrities will compete for the title of "Celebrity Apprentice" and $250,000 for a charity of their choice. One of the contestants is Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi, best known for her hard-partying time on the hit MTV reality series "Jersey Shore."

When asked if she was a fan of "The Apprentice," she reveals she never watched it before.

"When I got approached to do the show, I had to do my homework," Polizzi tells us. "I watched the previous season and it terrified me. I wasn't sure if this was the show for me, but I'm always down to test myself. The fact that Arnold was the host — I couldn't say no to that."

Schwarzenegger undoubtedly has some pretty big shoes to fill. Like it or not, Trump was iconic as the original "Apprentice" host.

"Seeing it first-hand, Arnold does things a little different that the viewers are going to like," Polizzi adds.

And how about Trump's famous "You're fired!" tagline?

Will Arnold say something unique, like "Hasta la vista," maybe?

Polizzi says she can't disclose what the tagline is, but notes that it's something very "Arnoldish."

So what is the "Jersey Shore" star up to these days? Turns out, life is pretty chill. The mother of two admits that when she's not working, she enjoys kicking back with her family.

"Any time I have to spend with my kids, that's what I do. We have movie nights — we get popcorn and watch different movies together," she says.

If Polizzi wins "The New Celebrity Apprentice," her prize money will be donated to the North Shore Animal League America.

"I went to school to be a vet tech. Animals are my life," she says. "[The League] supports no-kill shelters and helps find homes for the animals — making sure they're loved."

"The New Celebrity Apprentice" premieres on Monday, Jan. 2 on NBC at 8 p.m.

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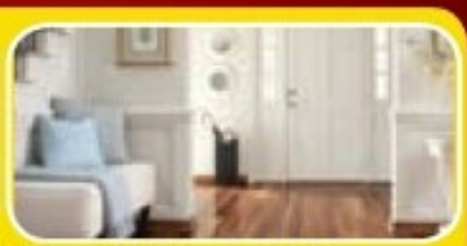

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'The Carols' adds a little humor to the classic Dickens tale

The newest show from 1812 Productions runs through Dec. 31.

MIKE FENN
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From left to right: Emily Kleimo, Rachel Camp and Caroline Dooner MARK GARVIN

Mary Martello MARK GARVIN

Through Dec. 31, fans of "A Christmas Carol" can jump in the sleigh and head down to Plays and Players Theatre in Rittenhouse Square. There, they will be treated to "The Carols," 1812 Productions' unique take on Charles Dickens' classic holiday tale.

"Set in the 1940s during World War II, all of the men are away at war and the ladies have to put on the annual production of 'A Christmas Carol' themselves," production director and 1812 Productions co-founder Jennifer Childs says.

Childs explains that the only person who shows up to the auditions is an out-of-work Catskills comic who is passing through the small town en route to Florida.

"This is about making something right with all the wrong people," Childs says. "It expands what the ideas of 'community' are."

"The Carols" features local talent such as Mary Martello, the "grande dame of Philadelphia theater" in the lead role of Betty the Landlady, who is "shut in by memories she cannot leave behind." Rounding out the cast are the "singing sisters" Rachel Camp, Emily Kleimo and Caroline Dooner, as well as Anthony Lawton and TJ Harris.

Not only do audiences get to enjoy a humorous yet heartfelt take on the original "Christmas Carol" story, but they will also hear music throughout the performance that, according to Childs, "combines songs with a 1940s-esque feel to them with contemporary musical theater songs." Childs provides the lyrics for the musical numbers, with Monica Stephenson responsible for the music itself. It is Childs' third musical; it follows her one-woman comedy "I Will Not Go Gently" from earlier this year and "Cherry Bomb" in 2008.

With its dazzling set design by Lance Kniskern, Christopher Colucci and Drew Billiau, costumes by Janus Stefanowicz and choreography by Karen Getz, Childs is proud of the work of her cast and crew and believes the show lives up to 1812 Productions' rep to "laugh with abandon."

Tickets for 1812 Productions' performance of "The Carols" range from $28 to $45 and can be purchased at the box office or through its website at 1812productions.org.

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Even for high school seniors who have perfected their applications and standardized-test scores, the college admissions interview is often a nerve-wracking experience.

"I tell students, as far as the nervousness goes: The subject of the conversation is you," says Ian Fisher, director of educational counseling at College Coach, an educational advising firm. "This isn't a quiz or a difficult calculus problem. They just want to know you."

Easier said than done, right? Fisher shares his tips on how to prepare for this all-important conversation.

Don't sound too rehearsed

"When I was an admissions counselor, my objective was to have a fun interaction with a student," Fisher explains. "I was trying to ask questions that led them to share a little about who they are."

The worst thing a student can do is spew rehearsed answers to basic questions. "I would always ask students what they were reading, and I use those as book recommendations," he says. "I'm not looking for 'War and Peace' or 'A Tale of Two Cities'; those are books I already know about."

Think about the school's culture

Different colleges are looking for different things, so you should prepare accordingly. "It's really important to understand the character of the school you are interviewing for," Fisher says. "You should know your Duke interviewer might be a little more professional, a little more traditional. A Stanford interview is probably going to be more entrepreneurial and laid back than what you would get from a Harvard interview."

Take cues from your interviewer

Admissions offices often enlist a variety of people to do interviews for them, notes Fisher. Be sure to know if you will be meeting with an admissions officer, an alumni representative or a student worker before heading into your interview.

"A staff member is going to be much more practiced at interviewing. You can expect questions on your high school experience, books you have read recently and your interests," says Fisher. "With a student interviewer, it's more about peer-to-peer relationships and student culture, while alumni interviews tend to be more formal."

Be enthusiastic

Most important of all, schools want students who really want to be there. "Schools see an interview as not only an opportunity to learn about the student but also to help the student learn about the school," explains Fisher. "This is a chance for you to express curiosity about the place."

Fisher suggests preparing two or three thoughtful questions. "Don't ask questions that you can get the answers to online," he says. "Ask questions that are specific to that person's experience."

Your enthusiasm could be the deciding factor in selecting you over someone else with similar grades. "One of the all-important moments comes at the end of the interview, when they ask, 'Do you have any questions for me?'" says Fisher. "The worst answer to that is 'No, I'm good.'"

Study: More workers choosing 'agile' employment over full-time

By 2019, half the U.S. workforce is expected to consist of freelance, consultant, temporary or contract staff.

NIKKI MASCALI
@MetroPhilly
nikki.mascali@metro.us

Full-time employment is out, and the "agile workforce" is in.

A study called "Workplace 2025" from staffing company Randstad US found that a greater number of workers and employers are opting for freelance, consultant, temporary or contract opportunities instead of traditional full-time positions.

"This study has shock value as it predicts we will see significant change for the workplace and workforce of the future," Jim Link, chief human resources officer at Randstad North America, told us. "It's truly a wakeup call for business and HR leaders who need to better understand and prepare for a significant change in how we all work."

The number of companies building an agile office jumped to 46 percent from 18 percent in 2012, and 46 percent of workers surveyed personally chose not to be full-time.

"One of the most surprising findings is workers' perception that being 'agile' offers greater job security," Link said.

This growing trend is driven largely by millennials, who are looking for "flexibility" and "experiences" over titles and climbing the proverbial corporate ladder, the study found.

"This mind-set shift, combined with the growing availability of collaborative technologies to facilitate work from anywhere, anytime and on any device, means that working a traditional 9-to-5 day in an office will be obsolete," Link said. "It's not just about telecommuting or flexibility — 56 percent of agile workers said it makes them more money, too."

According to the study, the average salary for an agile worker is $77,180.

More than 3,100 full-time, temp, contract, consultant and freelance workers participated in "Workplace 2025," as did more than 1,500 C-suite executives.

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3 Things we saw as Eagles take a chance and fail in loss to Ravens

The Eagles, an extra point from tying the Ravens with four seconds left, failed to convert a two-point try.

EVAN MACY
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The Eagles were less than impressive from the air — but their ground attack and defense kept them in the game Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

With seconds to play in hostile Baltimore, Carson Wentz saw nothing but green after taking a snap at the 4-yard line. Trailing the Ravens by seven points, the quarterback scrambled his way into the end zone and that's when 'Big Balls Doug' took over. He called a pass play on the Eagles 2-point conversion try (deciding not to try an extra point and head to overtime with four ticks left on the clock). A tipped pass missed the outreached hands of Jordan Matthews and the Eagles lost, 27-26.

Wentz tossed an ugly, awful interception three plays into the game, fueling the Ravens, who went 39 yards — with a Kamar Aiken touchdown reception — to take an early lead.

The Birds responded after a solid Kenjon Barner kickoff return to turn a short field into a field goal.

In all, the game was a mix of outstanding effort from a Philadelphia team destined to miss the playoffs with some really unacceptable missteps, among them a defensive breakdown as the first half wound down that, instead of a field goal try, allowed Joe Flacco to find Steve Smith in the end zone to take a 20-14 lead after 30 minutes.

A promising, long 11-play drive stretched into the fourth quarter as Philly looked to take the lead, but red zone troubles (again) gave Philly just three points in a 27-yard Caleb Sturgis field goal and a 10-17 deficit.

The defense was asleep on the job again in the ensuing drive as the Ravens ran all over the Eagles en route to a 16-yard Kenneth Dixon touchdown run and a 27-17 lead which was chipped away to 27-20 after Sturgis' fourth field goal

Here's what we saw in a wild loss in Charm City:

1 Mat attack

The Eagles got solid production from their ground game, mainly Ryan Mathews, who was getting the lion share of carries after Barner left the game with a hamstring injury. Rookie Byron Marshall contributed as well (he scampered for several first downs and 22 yards on the ground), but it was Mathews — who scored the Eagles' first touchdown and also converted a clutch two-point conversion that made him the standout offensively.

In all, Mathews collected 128 rushing yards. Philly wanted to give Wentz, who has been throwing a ton of passes this season, a little relief and they did just that, running the ball 38 times and gaining 169 yards on the ground against a Ravens defense that typically allows half that.

Philly had the ball for more than 13 minutes longer than the Ravens did, running 81 plays to Baltimore's 57.

2 Pass rush returns

The Eagles pass rush finally looked like it's good old self, using an organic four-man rush on most plays to make things difficult for Joe Flacco.

Philly got to Flacco three times in the game, the most important coming late in the first quarter when Nigel Bradham got a strip sack, and Fletcher Cox recovered. Mathews marched into the end zone a play later to put the Eagles up 11-10 (after a leaping two-point conversion).

The defense added another turnover when Jordan Hicks intercepted Flacco with his back to the end zone, keeping the Eagles within 10 with seven minutes to play. The added field goal on the ensuing drive would give the Eagles a chance on their final drive.

3 Wavering Wentz

Wentz' game-opening interception did little to inspire confidence, nor did his two fumbles (both recovered by the Eagles) or a second-half deep bomb that was pick off but called back due to a defensive penalty.

A week after what head coach Doug Pederson called Wentz' best performance of the year the rookie looked less than stellar, completing 22-of-42 passes for 170 yards.

He stood tall in the pocket as the Eagles, down a touchdown, had a final try at tying things with less than a minute left. After drawing a helpful penalty, Wentz found Zach Ertz at the Ravens 17-yard,line to give the Birds 26 seconds to look for paydirt. A pass interference call put the Eagles at the four yardline and Wentz did the rest.

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Seemingly out of nowhere, Green Bay is the team to beat in the NFC North. GETTY IMAGES

NFL Week 15 roundup: Packers, Ravens, Texans win in thrillers

Here's what happened in Week 15 action as several teams desperately sought wins to help playoff positioning.

Green Bay 30, Chicago 27
Mason Crosby's field goal as time expired made sure the Packers (8-6) survived a comeback scare by the Bears (3-11). After going down 27-10 thanks to the play of Ty Montgomery and four Matt Barkley turnovers, the Bears scored 17 straight points to tie the game. On the next drive however, Jordy Nelson got behind the defense and was finally brought down at the Chicago 14 after a 60-yard gain.

New York Giants 17, Detroit 6
Two teams that had won 15 of their last 17 games met in the Meadowlands, and the Giants (10-4) jumped on top early, never looked back, and walked away the victor. The Lions (9-5) settled for two Matt Prater field goals, went 0-for-3 in red zone visits and turned the ball over twice.

Indianapolis 34, Minnesota 6
The Colts (7-7) showed they haven't given up on their season shellacking the Vikings (7-7) and ruining Adrian Peterson's return. In his first game action since week 1, Peterson finished with six carries for 22 yards and lost one fumble. Minnesota had little use for the run game after falling behind 27-0 by halftime.

Pittsburgh 24, Cincinnati 20
After kicking six field goals, the Steelers (9-5) finally broke through into the end zone when Ben Roethlisberger found Eli Rogers in the end zone in the fourth quarter. Le'Veon Bell ground his way to 131 total yards against the team that has injured him twice.

Houston 21, Jacksonville 20
Down 13-0, the Texans (8-6) benched Brock Osweiler following his second interception. Tom Savage entered and led the Houston comeback for a victory Houston desperately needed while the Colts and Titans were notching upsets.

Tennessee 19, Kansas City 17
The Titans (8-6) got a huge upset on Ryan Succop's 53-yard field goal as time expired. The Chiefs (10-4) led 17-7 at the half in general Chiefs fashion: Tyreek Hill had a 68-yard touchdown run, the defense had forced three turnovers, and the offense hadn't done much else.

Buffalo 33, Cleveland 13
LeSean McCoy led the way for Buffalo with 153 yards and two touchdowns rushing as the Bills (7-7) piled up 280 rushing yards. On the other hand, Robert Griffin III (was the leading rusher for the Browns (0-14), who lost their 17th straight game dating back to 2015 in one of the few contests of the day decided early.

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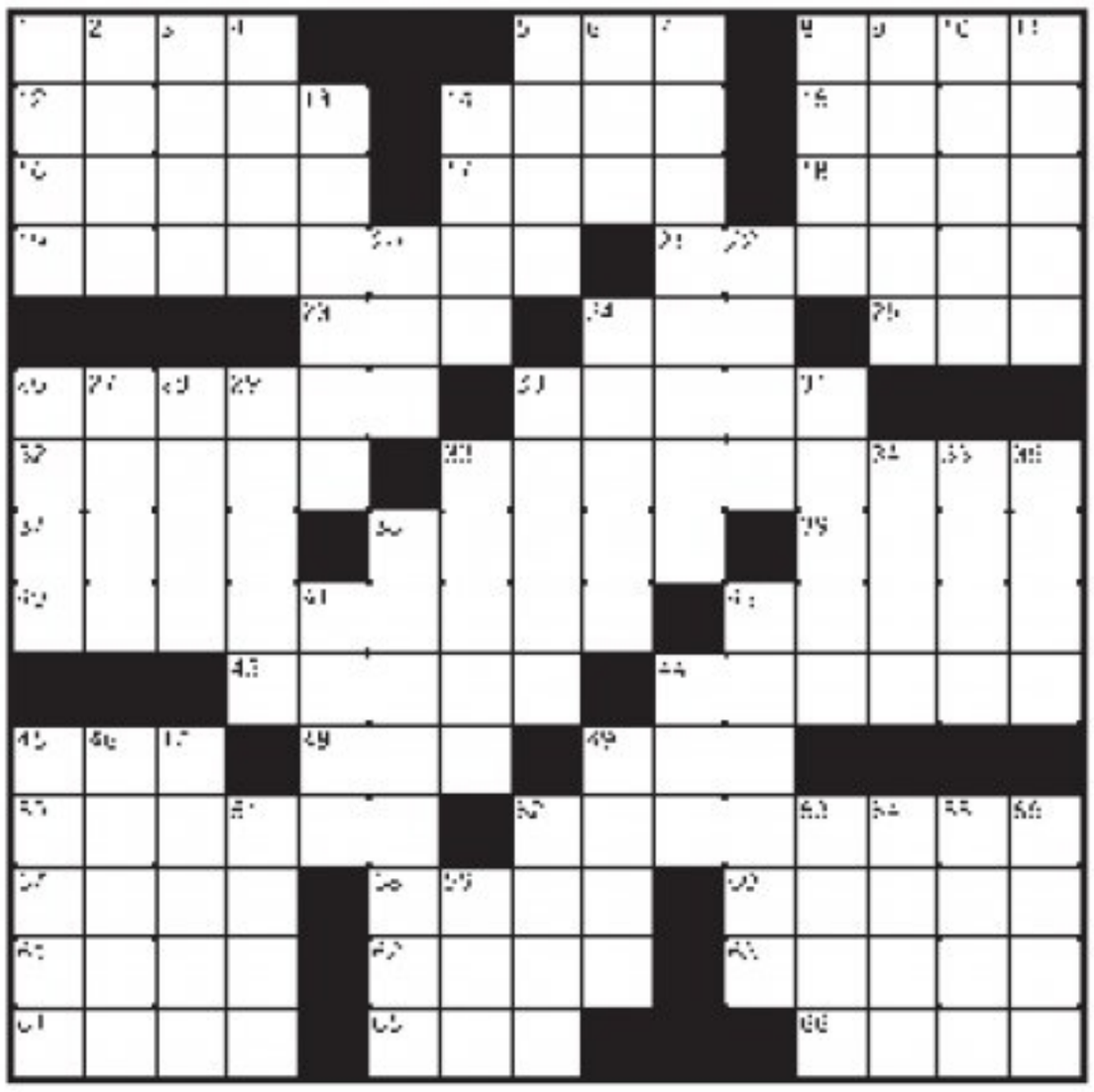

Across

1 Turtle follower
5 Place for a pint
8 Clothing
12 Outlying region
14 Laird's accent
15 "En garde" weapon
16 Taxing time
17 Rights org.
18 Pro --
19 Within reach
21 Naturally bright
23 Clock numeral
24 Stanley Cup org.
25 Ave. crossers
26 Mitten loser of rhyme
30 -- Kea volcano
32 German steel center
33 Really full (hyph.)
37 Tilt
38 Gaea has five
39 Open
40 Was related to
42 Rathskeller mug
43 Ad spiels
44 Argosies
45 Yvette's date
48 Hi-fi records
49 Mark of Zorro
50 Horticultural art
52 Parson
57 -- Raton, Florida
58 Was, to Ovid
60 Sherpa, often
61 Flair
62 Wine served warm
63 Wife of Menelaus
64 Jerk
65 Kickoff stand
66 Stoic founder

Down

1 Lowest high tide
2 World's fair
3 Strays
4 Mr. Kristofferson
5 Brownish-purple
6 Web address
7 Reviews
8 Slender gull
9 Iridescent gems
10 Ya dig? (2 wds.)
11 Pants parts
13 Karen -- (Isak Dinesen)
14 Romantic island
20 Dumpster
22 Humerus neighbor
24 Appointed
26 Iodine source
27 Palm reader's opener (2 wds.)
28 1917 abdicator
29 Fractional part
30 Lionesses' lack
31 Sharp
33 Actor Tommy Lee --
34 Cypress feature
35 Fix typos
36 Spanish noblemen
38 Peppiest
41 Auel's heroine
42 Horses pull it
44 Marsh
45 Convent
46 Money, in slang
47 Early Peruvian
47 Early Peruvian
49 Pasta tubes
51 Went to the bottom
52 Construct
53 Egyptian canal
54 Mosaic unit
55 TV genie portrayer
56 Casino city
59 "Norma --"

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PRA Health Sciences in Marlton is now seeking mothers with postpartum depression for a clinical research study. Qualified participants for this study should be between ages 18 and 45, with postpartum symptoms for the past six months or less. In addition, participants should not be pregnant.

Those who qualify for this study may be compensated for their time and travel. Transportation is available. To learn more, visit volunteers.prahs.com or call 844-PRA-PINK (844-772-7465).

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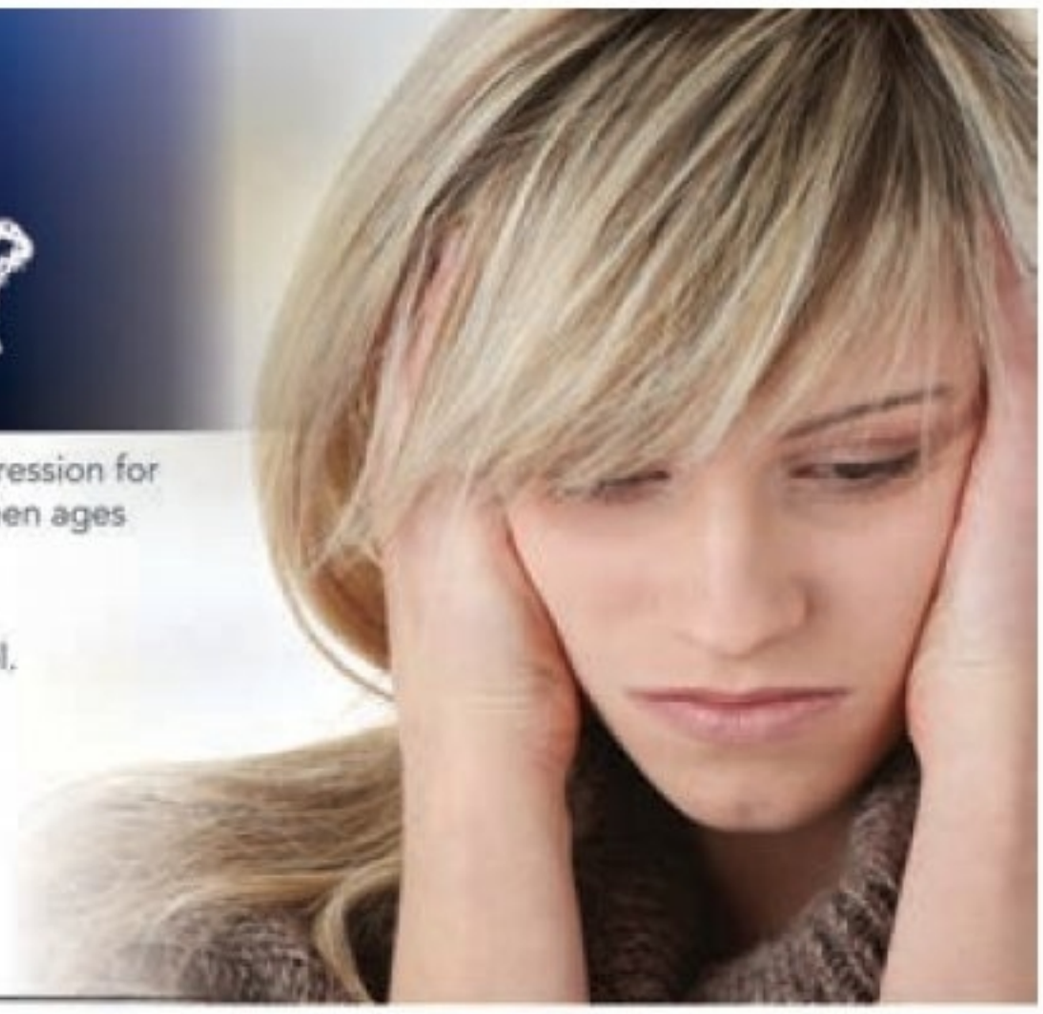

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA OR SCHIZOAFFECTIVE DISORDER

If so, that person could qualify for a medical research study being conducted by PRA Health Sciences in Marlton. Qualified participants for this study should be between ages 18 and 55. This individual should not currently be on antipsychotic treatment other than oral risperidone. Females should not be pregnant or about to become pregnant.

Those who qualify for this study may be compensated for travel and other expenses related to study participation. Transportation is available.

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DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAVE MILD ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE?

PRA Health Sciences in Marlton is now seeking individuals with mild Alzheimer's disease for a research study. To qualify for this study, individuals should be male or female between ages 55 and 85. Other than mild Alzheimer's, they should be in general good health. Females should be postmenopausal for at least one year or surgically sterile.

Those who qualify for this study may be compensated for time and travel.

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